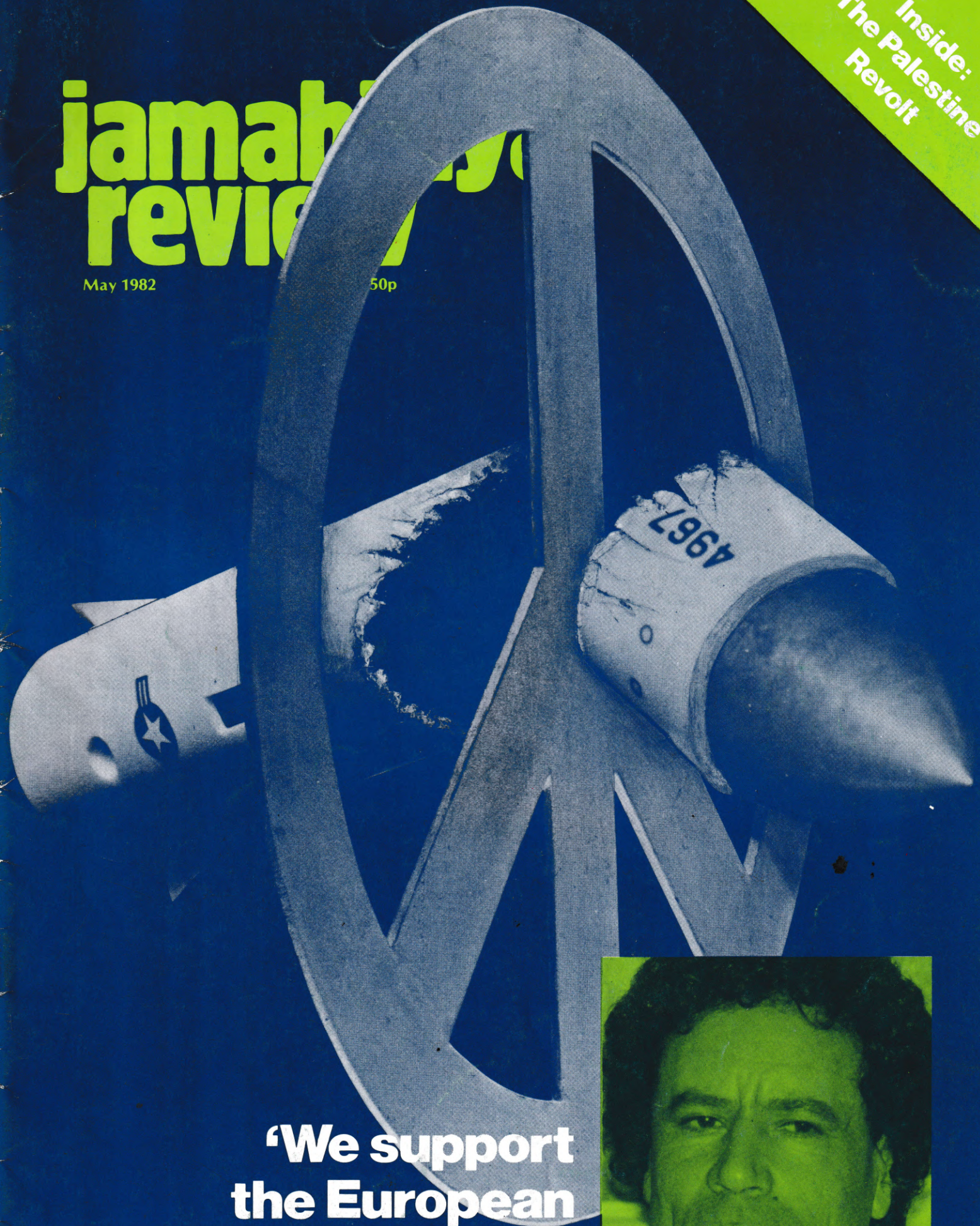


# jamah review

May 1982

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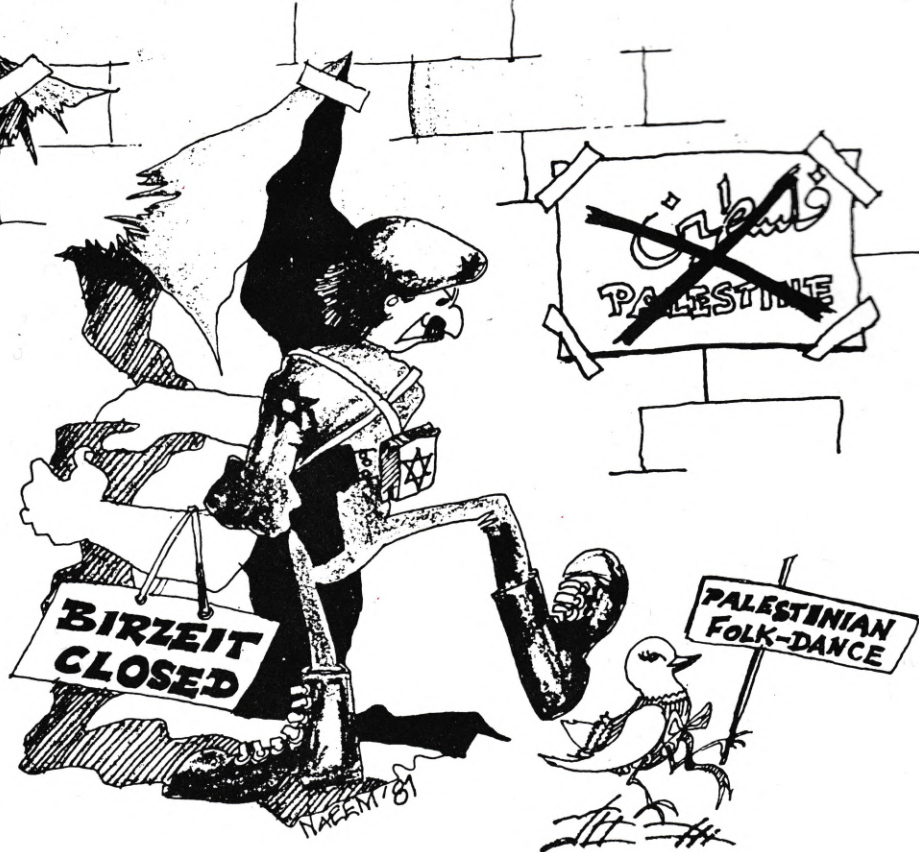
Inside:  
The Palestine  
Revolt



**'We support  
the European  
peace movement'  
says Qadhafi**







## Students are the message

□ From David Mathieson,  
Bursar, Berkeley College, Bristol

Dear Sir, I feel the time has come for me to write to you about Libya, and more important, Muammer Qadhafi. Having had long experience in dealing with Libyan students, I get somewhat depressed with the media in this country and their continual criticism and innuendo regarding the Libyan President. It appears to me that anyone who does anything which is based on purity gets vilified by the Western media. If we take the Green Book as an example, whilst it is not perfect (and I am sure that Muammer Qadhafi would be the last person to say that it is) it certainly contains a great deal of common sense and logic, which if exercised would, I am sure, lead to a more balanced way of life. One only has to be in contact with the ordinary Libyan student to understand the benefit and progress that has been achieved in a short space of time, and to become excited at the attitude of the young future of Libya who come here for their education.

Finally, having watched Muammer Qadhafi being interviewed several times on television, I

believe that he is probably one of the most misunderstood leaders in the world, and this is based on my involvement over many years in the teaching of English to Overseas students.

## Where power really lies

□ From Bashir A Ghannudi,  
San Deigo, USA

Dear Sir, I have read the article about the concept of democracy in the December 1981 issue of the *Jamahiriyah Review*: 'People's authority basis of democracy in the Jamahiriyah'.

Although the article was a comprehensive summary of the authority of the people, some of the basic elements of direct democracy were not mentioned. The theory of part one of the Green Book says that the authority of the people is based on Popular Congresses and People's Committees; the General People's Congress is the place where the nation's policy is to be co-ordinated. Therefore, the three bodies of the authority of the people are: legislation and supervision, executives and co-ordinator.

In the article the General People's Congress was described as the legislature, with the power

of moving the members of the executives body if they fail to effectively implement the policies decided upon by the people. The fact that the General People's Congress has been given temporarily some authority during the transitional period does not make it a legislator. The real legislators are the people of the Basic Popular Congresses; it is they who make sure that the decisions they have taken are fully executed by the People's Committees — the executive body.

## Letters welcome from our readers

We are pleased to receive letters from our readers. If you would like to express your views on any subject through the columns of our magazine, please write to: The Letters Editor, *Jamahiriyah Review*, 13A Hillgate Street, London W8 7SP, England. We reserve the right to shorten long letters.

## Stories from Libya

The latest issue of *AZURE* magazine, published in London by the Arab Cultural Trust, contains a special supplement of short stories by 12 modern Libyan writers, introduced by Ahmed Ibrahim al Fagih.

The contents also include a review by David James of the Islamic Masterpieces Exhibition in London, a study by Miriam Cooke on the influences of the Lebanese civil war on seven contemporary Arab writers, a View of Cyrene 462 BC by Richard Stoneman, and a Tribute to Yahya Taher Abdullah by Denys Johnson-Davies.

*AZURE* magazine is available from all good bookshops price £2.50 or direct from the Arab Cultural Trust, 13A Hillgate Street, London W8 7SP (£3.00 including post and packing).



# jamahiriya review

No 24

May 1982

**COVER STORY:** Concern at the growing prospect of nuclear war between the super-powers should unite Arab and European progressives. This was the message from the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi when he talked with leaders of the European peace movement at a specially convened dialogue in Vienna during March. In a transcript of the dialogue made available to Jamahiriya Review, Qadhafi declares Libya's support for the European peace movement. 'Our resources are available for the creation of a new world,' he told the meeting. See page 9.

**INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM WILSON, MP:** Following his recent visit to Libya, the Labour Member of Parliament William Wilson talks to Phil Kelly about his impressions of the Jamahiriya. 'It is ridiculous for a country the size of the United States to threaten a country of three million people thousands of miles away,' he declares. The British MP praises the achievements of Libya's thirteen years old revolution. See page 11.

**PALESTINE:** As the Palestinian people confront the Zionist schemes to annex the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Alan George reviews recent events, in which many Palestinians have died resisting the Zionist occupation, and examines the Zionists' strategy. See page 13.

**ARAB UNITY:** New measures have been agreed between Libya and Algeria aimed at strengthening political and economic co-operation between the two Arab states. The moves follow proposals by the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi earlier this year, in which he set out his plans for a form of union. Details appear on page 12, together with news of developments on the Libyan-Syrian unity scheme.

**BRITISH TRADE WITH LIBYA:** In the second of this series, Alan George reports on the exports of Goodwin Barsby, and how Libya's orders have helped provide employment for British workers in Leicester. See page 17.

**RESISTANCE ON THE GOLAN:** Syrians living on the Zionist occupied Golan Heights have been waging a bitter resistance struggle against the annexation of their land. Little attention has been given by the world's press to the six week blockade imposed by the Zionists, as Alan George explains on page 15.

**AFRICAN REPORT:** The dispute over the Western Sahara has deeply divided the member states of the Organisation of African Unity, which is set to hold its next summit in Libya during August. Against the background of Libya's commitment to find a political solution to the problem, Louis Eaks reports on developments in the conflict. See page 16.

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A monthly summary of news and events from the Libyan Jamahiriya, the Arab homeland and the Third World.

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COVER: Photomontage by Peter Kennard, taken from a poster published in London by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Photograph of Muammer Qadhafi, copyright D Sattmann, Vienna.



# From Jerusalem to Sirte: The moral decline of the United States

WITHIN DAYS of proposals by the Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi for the United States and Libya to resolve their differences through negotiations, Washington announced highly provocative plans to stage new military manoeuvres in Libyan waters in the Gulf of Sirte later this summer. Only days after the United States vetoed a Security Council resolution on events in occupied Arab Jerusalem, which censured Israeli policies in the Holy City, Jerusalem supplied fighter jets with Israeli markings launched the latest Zionist blitzkrieg on Lebanon's capital, Beirut.

The American propaganda machine has worked energetically during the past two years to discredit and isolate the Libyan Jamahiriya, yet today it must be obvious to most people that if a single nation is wholly out of step with international opinion and codes of morality, it is the United States.

Washington has few allies, even amongst West European governments, for its stand towards the Soviet Union and the decision to escalate the arms race, particularly in the field of nuclear weapons; in the Security Council it is generally only the US which sides with Israel, and on the recent occasions when Washington has vetoed Council resolutions concerning Palestine, each of the European Council members has voted to support the resolution under debate; and there is clear and public concern being voiced by European governments against Washington's sabre rattling approach to Libya, and its widely reported schemes to overthrow the authorities loyal to Muammar Qadhafi, the leader of the Libyan Revolution.

## The Gulf of Sirte

The American plans for new manoeuvres in the Gulf of Sirte are a clear provocation. Libya's territorial waters extend 12 miles from the coastline, as is standard for most countries, but the Gulf of Sirte was claimed by the Jamahiriya in October 1973 under the 1958 Convention of the UN Conference of the Law of the Sea as an 'historic bay', which carries the same degree of sovereignty as internal waters.

Libya is not alone in claiming waters under the 'historic bay' provisions of the 1958 Convention; the Bristol Channel, St Peter's Bay, Varanger Fjord in Norway, and America's own Long Island Sound are amongst fifty other examples.

If the United States wishes to dispute Libya's claims in the Gulf of Sirte, there exist civilised and routine procedures to take the matter to the International Court at The Hague for adjudication. In fact, Muammar Qadhafi expressed Libya's readiness to go to The Hague only days before Washington's latest declaration of newly planned manoeuvres in the Gulf of Sirte. If the United States persists in its delinquent behaviour, there is no intention on the part of Libya to launch some aggression against the US, but Libya has a powerful right to defend its territory from American intrusions.

## Palestine

The American belligerency towards the Libyan Jamahiriya stems from many fundamental differences, but none is more

sensitive than the contrasting stands adopted on the Palestine issue. Libya stands firmly on the side of the Palestinian Arab people, while Washington, for all its efforts to present itself as honest broker, is the protector of the Zionists. For this reason, if Zionist schemes against the Arab nation are to succeed, the steadfastness of Arab determination to liberate its territories must be broken, and that means that the most powerful supporter of the Arab cause in Palestine, Libya, must be removed from the equation.

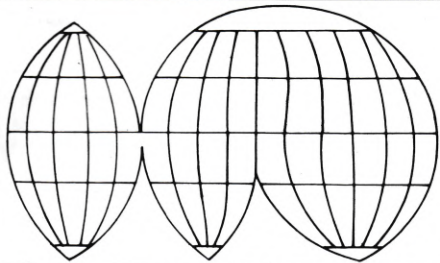
The hearts of all humanitarian people must go out to the Palestinian people of the occupied West Bank and Gaza as they protest with pebbles against the automatic rifles and armoured cars of the military regime imposed on them by the Israeli occupation forces. It is an unequal battle in terms of arms, and there is no doubt that the Zionists are the stronger; it is an unequal battle in terms of moral rights and legitimacy, and here there is nothing in the Zionist armoury.

Palestine is under military occupation; the Palestinians' right to self-determination and national independence, confirmed in resolutions of the UN General Assembly, is denied by the Zionists and the United States. The agony of Palestine is not for the Palestinians alone; it reaches beyond the Arab nation to every individual who cares about human dignity and rights.

The question is who cares? The Falkland Islands 'crisis' must clarify in the minds of everyone the double standards which exist. On the Falklands, Britain has argued that diplomatic efforts demand a military back-up. Yet where is such a military back-up to support the Palestinians in their heroic struggle? Many nations have supported Britain by imposing trade embargoes against the Argentine, yet the Arabs are castigated for their boycott of Zionist goods, and make little effort to ensure its effectiveness. It is a betrayal of the Palestinians and a humiliation to the Arab nation that there exist regimes and rulers in the Arab homeland who readily finance the United States and Zionist capability to strike at the Arabs, but are not so ready to make the sacrifices needed to restore justice and dignity in Palestine. The Argentine invasion of the Falklands, which Libya deplores, has achieved the status of an international crisis, involving, as it does, some 1,800 Falkland Islands inhabitants, while four million Palestinians are allowed for decades to suffer the degradation of exile or military occupation.

It is difficult to fault the views of the mayor of occupied Gaza, Rashad al-Shawwa. When asked about the one day general strike declared by Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States, he replied that if that was all they could do, they would be better doing nothing. It is because Libya voices the feelings of tens of millions of Arab people in demanding firm and concrete support for the Palestinian people, a preparedness to respond to military aggression with military action, that Washington is so firmly committed to its plans to destabilise the Libyan Jamahiriya. And because this US plan is not denied by Washington, the manoeuvres in the Gulf of Sirte assume a greater importance than would seem at first sight.





# PANORAMA

## news review

### Libya calls for peaceful solution on Falklands

LIBYA HAS called on the United Kingdom and Argentina to settle their differences on the Falkland Islands without resort to force. The Jamahiriya rejects the use of force in the solving of international disputes, and to that extent, the official Libyan statement is seen as a criticism of the Argentinian attack on the Islands. But the Libyan statement also points out that there is no logical way in which islands so far away can be regarded as part of Britain, and to that extent, the statement backs Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the Islands. But the official statement, issued on 13th April by the People's Liaison Bureau for Foreign Affairs affirms the need for the people of the Falklands to be allowed to live in freedom should they choose to stay there.

The Bureau, which acts as a Foreign Ministry under Libya's system of direct democracy, said that it had followed the dispute and especially the impending military clash, 'with concern'.

The statement said: 'The British presence in the Falklands is a remnant of the colonialist drive of the 19th century, and a result of the colonialist powers' agreement on delineating spheres of influence and control. The Falkland Islands cannot be accepted as an extension of the British Isles, and at a time when the Jamahiriya cannot accept aggression against the territories of an independent state such as Britain, it cannot also regard the Falkland Islands as being part of British territory.'

'The Jamahiriya affirms the need to respect the Falkland Islands' population's right to live in freedom should they choose to stay there and to pay compensation for those who seek to return to their country.'

'The Jamahiriya rejects the use of force as a principle of solving international disputes. This principle endangers peace and security and is barbaric, sterile and backward. The Jamahiriya affirms the need to solve international disputes through peaceful means.'

'The Jamahiriya calls on Argentina and Britain to eschew



American pilots boast to a press conference last summer how they shot down two Libyan planes. Now Washington has announced plans for new manoeuvres in the Gulf of Sirte (see item below).

armed confrontation, and appeals to the world community to work to that end. The Jamahiriya is currently working through the non-aligned movement for the adoption of a position affirming that the solution of the dispute should be through negotiations, without armed confrontation.'

### US manoeuvres planned in Gulf of Sirte

IN A clearly provocative move, the United States has announced plans to stage new military manoeuvres in the Gulf of Sirte on Libya's coastline. The announcement from Washington caused dismay in European capitals, where it has been hoped that the United States would respond to the call from the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi for face-to-face talks between Libyan and American leaders to resolve the political disputes between the two countries. Yet only hours after Qadhafi's proposals, the US made it clear that it intends to repeat last year's exercises in waters claimed by Libya, and which led to the shooting down of two Libyan planes by the Americans.

Washington's belligerency has clearly angered the Austrian Foreign Minister Walter Pahr, who visited the US in early March as part of his country's efforts to ease the tensions between Libya and the American government.

He rejected America's refusal

to enter a dialogue with Libya aimed at resolving outstanding problems between the two countries. Speaking in Washington on 13th March, Mr Pahr stressed that Muammer Qadhafi was ready to visit the US to discuss problems between the two countries. He added that he had informed Deputy Secretary of State Walter Stoessel of the Jamahiriya's wish for negotiations, which had been stressed during the Libyan leader's recent visit to Austria.

Qadhafi 'would be prepared to come here if he would be received, and he would like to discuss, so he said, all the problems, all the disputes which exist between him and the US administration,' Mr Pahr said. He added that the Jamahiriya was ready in particular to submit to the International Court the dispute over the Gulf of Sirte, which Libya claims as part of its 'historic waters', giving it a degree of sovereignty over the area.

The United States has rejected a dialogue with the Jamahiriya. On his return from his recent visit to Austria, Muammer Qadhafi called, once again, for talks with Washington, but the State Department responded by saying that negotiations could take place only if Libya dropped its support of liberation movements in Palestine, southern Africa and central America.

The Austrian Foreign Minister dismissed the US attitude as unrealistic. 'I don't think you can expect concessions before starting to talk,' Mr Pahr said. 'It is a mistake to expect results before negotiations. Results are a consequence of negotiations,' he concluded.

### Firm action urged on Palestine

LIBYAN REVOLUTIONARY leader Muammer Qadhafi has called on Arab leaders to act decisively in support of the Palestinian people, and to spurn empty condemnations of Israeli aggression.

In a message to Arab heads of state on 27th March, at the height of the Palestinian uprising in the 1967 occupied territories (see report, pages 13-15), Muammer Qadhafi said that the savage Israeli suppression of demonstrations was 'yet another insult to be added to the series of humiliations directed by Israel against the Arab nation'.

He described the Arab condemnations of Israel as 'meaningless', saying that they served only to undermine the resolve of the Arabs under Zionist occupation.

It was the duty of Arab leaders, he said, to help transform the Palestinian revolt in the West Bank and Gaza Strip into a 'war of popular liberation'. He added: 'We should smash the barriers that separate us from them, and should build bridges over Arab borders with the occupied lands to establish material links with them.'

If Arab leaders were unable to do this, he concluded, they should 'at least agree on providing the Palestinian resistance movement with material resources to enable it to help the West Bank's population to face the Israeli onslaught'. ►



## Athens, Paris, Dublin: Closer links with Tripoli

FOLLOWING THE highly successful official visit to Austria by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, the Green Government has announced that he will possibly visit Athens, possibly in late April or early May. This will be the Libyan leader's first visit to an EEC and NATO member country. Since the election of the socialist government of Andreas Papandreu last year, Greece has moved to strengthen its ties with progressive Arab countries. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was warmly welcomed to Athens in December last year.

In a further move seen as consolidating the links between Libya and western European countries, Staff Major Abdul Salem Jalloud is to visit Paris in May. French radio, giving details of the visit, said that the Mitterrand government 'considers that a dialogue can be resumed between Paris and Tripoli as Libya has withdrawn its troops from Chad, rebuilt the French Embassy in Tripoli, and released the Dupont family'. The French Embassy in the Libyan capital was damaged by Libyans protesting against French imperialism in Chad; the Duponts were held briefly earlier this year on suspicion of breaking visa regulations.

Another EEC member country, Ireland, is intending to increase its trade with the Jamahiriya. The Irish Agriculture Minister, Mr Brian Lenihan, is to pay an official visit to Libya in order to boost cattle exports, the *Irish Times* reported on 17th April. The decision followed an internal dispute in Ireland between cattle breeders, who are anxious to sell as many cattle as possible, and food manufacturers, who would prefer increased exports of cattle products. Increasing exports would suit both groups.

Ireland has enjoyed steadily increasing sales of cattle to Libya, and has a favourable trade balance with the Jamahiriya. Irish trade with Libya was worth about £80 million in the first nine months of 1981.

## French naval vessels join evacuation celebrations

A CONVOY of ten French-built fast-attack Combattante vessels went on display in the Gulf of Sirte as Libya enjoyed a holiday atmosphere on 28th March,



*Austrian Chancellor Kreisky with Muammar Qadhafi during the Libyan leader's recent visit to Vienna to strengthen Libya's ties with Europe (see news item on left).*

marking the twelfth anniversary of the evacuation of British military bases in Libya.

The removal of foreign military bases from Libyan territory was one of the first priorities of the Libyan authorities following the 1969 Revolution, when it was declared that no foreign military forces, whether from the West or the East, would be permitted on Libyan territory. Since the Revolution, the Jamahiriya has pursued a strictly non-aligned policy.

As a consequence of this principle, both British and American forces were ordered to evacuate their military bases in Libya, which until 1969 had played an important role in Western military strategy both in the Mediterranean and Arab homeland regions. In the 1967 June War, between the Arabs and the Zionists, American bases in Libya had been used to airlift supplies to Israel.

Internally, prior to the 1969 Revolution, Britain and the United States had exercised an important political role in Libya; the regime of King Idris provided merely a façade of independence, while important political decisions concerning Libya's internal political and economic policies were determined in Washington and London, and often implemented through the multi-national oil companies.

The anniversary of the British evacuation was marked as a national holiday, with celebrations and rallies staged in towns and villages throughout the Jamahiriya. The French vessels, part of a \$496 million order placed with Construction Mecanique de Normandie in 1977, took part in exercises attended by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and the Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Brigadier Mustapha al Kharroubi.

## New moves to strengthen revolutionary values

IF NEW revolutionary values are to take root in society, two areas are crucial to success. Firstly, the new ideals and values must provide the basis of society's educational system to bring forth a new generation of citizens who are not motivated by personal greed for power and wealth. Secondly, the mass media must reflect and propagate the new values.

The Libyan revolution has constantly striven to create a new form of society, based on new concepts of people's democracy and the removal of patronage and profiteering which are so commonly manifested in other societies. The change to a new moral order calls for a permanent revolution to challenge those sections of society which attempt to thwart the new order because it will reduce the power and privileges which they once held.

New moves to ensure that the principles of the revolution are reflected in the media, and strengthened through the education system have recently been instigated by revolutionary students in Libya. The moves coincided with the anniversary of the 7th April student uprising in 1976, when the student movement forced radical changes in the universities, and demanded that teaching posts should be held by persons loyal to the revolution.

Both media and educational centres were the target of the revolutionary students this year, as they marked the anniversary of the 1976 events. On 7th April

the students forced radical changes in Libya's media and information services, to ensure that media would in future reflect the values of the Al Fateh Revolution both in accurate reporting of the news, and in its analysis and commentary.

On 12th April, revolutionary students from Benghazi's Gar Younis University marched on the university college at Baida, and secured the removal of students and teaching staff in the Faculties of Education and Agriculture, which they described as having become centres of counter-revolutionaries. The following day in the Libyan capital, revolutionary students demanded changes in the Central Tripoli Basic People's Congress.

The students' actions followed a renewed call from the Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi for students loyal to the revolution to 'increase the revolutionary committees movement' during a tour of Libyan schools in late March.

## Need for greater child care facilities in rural areas

ALTHOUGH WELFARE services have made tremendous advances in the Arab homeland during the past decade, there remains a need to expand services particularly into the rural areas. This priority was stressed at an international symposium on pediatric medicine held in Tripoli, the Libyan capital, during March. Organised by the College of Medicine of Al Fateh University,



the symposium was attended by doctors specialising in child medicine from the Arab homeland, Asia, Africa and the Americas.

The symposium underlined the increasing recognition amongst Third World doctors of the need to co-operate more closely in discussing and tackling the specific problems facing the developing nations. Not least of these is the need to advance education amongst mothers on child care, and the proper use of medicines. The symposium specifically referred to the dangers of over-use of drugs and medicines, and the need to tighten the availability of medicines without a doctor's prescription. It was also agreed that there was a need to expand the service through the establishment of more child-care centres in rural areas.

A significant call from the symposium was directed at the revival of the Arab medical heritage. A great deal of medical science and technique was invented and discovered by Arab physicians. Original Arab manuscripts of the Middle Ages have now often vanished into European museums and collections, and the symposium called for their cataloguing, the reprinting of old books containing important works, and the microfilming of manuscripts held outside the Arab homeland to facilitate research into the Arab medical heritage.

To further such research, the symposium called for the setting up of centres for documentation in the Arab homeland which would serve as a base for the collection and translation of important Arab medical texts.

## Warm reception for Reagan

A NUMBER of Members of Parliament and leading trades unionists have founded a 'Reagan Reception Committee' to organise a series of demonstrations when the US President visits Britain from 7th to 9th June.

In its inaugural statement, the Committee accused Reagan of 'blatant hypocrisy' by pretending to condemn the suppression of trade union rights in Poland while increasing financial support for 'the dictatorial regime in El Salvador which daily sanctions murder and torture'. The Committee says that the large sums which the British government spends on buying American weapons, such as the Trident nuclear missile system 'should be spent on more hospitals and schools, better housing and bringing down the appalling level of unemployment.

'We don't want bombs, we want jobs; we want peace, not nuclear



*An American protests in Washington against Reagan's foreign policy, while demonstrations are planned in London during June; see 'Warm reception for Reagan' below.*

holocaust,' said the Committee's statement. When Margaret Thatcher welcomes Mr Reagan, the Committee says, 'she in no way speaks for the Labour and trade union movement in this country'. The Reagan Reception Committee's address is PO Box 51, London SW10.

## Aid for flood victims

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya has mounted a major relief operation to help victims of floods that have ravaged large areas of Democratic Yemen. On 6th April medical supplies, blankets and food were airlifted to the disaster area, and two days later a delegation from the Jamahiriya arrived to assess Yemen's relief needs at first-hand. Algeria, and Arab Gulf states have also joined the relief effort.

Brigadier Ali Antar, Democratic Yemen's First Vice Premier, visited the Jamahiriya in April to thank the Libyan people for their speedy response to the emergency. Speaking in Benghazi on 10th April he reported that the

floods had killed 428 people and left 10,000 families homeless. Several villages had been completely destroyed, said the Yemeni official, dams had collapsed, and communications links and electricity supplies had been cut. The entire agricultural crop had been lost. Initial estimates put the flood damage at \$1 billion, said Brigadier Ali Antar.

## Sahara summit advances Afro-Arab unity

STAFF MAJOR Abdul Salem Jalloud praised the 'positive results' of the sixth summit conference of countries bordering the Sahara, which took place in the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott on 28th and 29th March. Staff Major Jalloud attended the conference on behalf of the Libyan Jamahiriya.

Major Jalloud said that the Mauritanian government had taken firm and positive stands on issues vital to the Arabs, and was virtually qualified for membership of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, which links

Libya, Algeria, Syria, South Yemen and the PLO. Countries represented at the summit in addition to Mauritania and Libya were Algeria, Chad, Mali and Niger.

He added that the summit showed that Afro-Arab co-operation could be consolidated, and could become a model for developing countries, especially in view of the escalated campaign of economic, political, psychological and military warfare against Third World countries and their people.

Major Jalloud said that the US and the Israelis were now threatening small countries by forcing up interest rates on loans, making it impossible for small countries to benefit from development loans.

One of the key issues discussed at the summit was the Western Sahara dispute. This is dealt with on page 15. In its final communiqué, the summit meeting expressed solidarity and support for the Libyan Jamahiriya against imperialist threats and economic pressure, which it described as 'a real danger to the interests and security of the Libyan people'.

On Chad, the conference affirmed its support for the efforts made by the Organisation of African Unity to help the Chadian interim Government of National Unity restore peace to the country and protect its territorial integrity.

## Cultural centre opens in Cyprus

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya has opened a cultural centre in Nicosia, the first to be set in Cyprus by an Arab country. The new centre will eventually have four libraries, and will provide instruction in Arabic language and typing.

Mr Muhammad Bashir Marwan, responsible for information at the Libyan People's Bureau in Nicosia, said that the cultural centre will act as a showcase for Libya's progress, and will 'bring our two peoples closer together'.

## Kenya and Togo improve Libyan ties

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya has declared an interest in strengthening economic ties with Kenya by setting up joint ventures in agriculture, tourism, fishing and transport. In March, Mr Martin Shikuku, a Kenyan Assistant Minister for Planning and Economic Development, headed a





This one-rupee postage stamp has been issued by India to mark its support for the Palestine liberation struggle.

► ten-man delegation on a fact finding mission to Libya to explore the possibilities for co-operation between the two countries. On 20th March Nairobi radio quoted him as saying that the Jamahiriya wanted Libyan Arab Airlines and Kenya Airlines to inaugurate direct flights between Tripoli and Nairobi. He added that the Libyan Education Secretariat had agreed to send Arab teachers to Kenya, while Kenya would send Kiswahili teachers to the Jamahiriya.

The moves towards greater Libyan-Kenyan co-operation reflect the Jamahiriya's long-standing commitment to close ties with its fellow African countries, which has cultural as well as economic and political aspects. On 19th March President Eyadema of Togo received a three-man Libyan delegation that was visiting the west African country for talks on the construction of an Islamic cultural centre in the capital, Lome. The project will be financed by the joint Libyan-United Arab Emirates Commission for Islamic Cultural Centres.

The Lome centre is one of a series being set up with Libyan assistance in African countries. The latest opened in Rwanda last June.

## Rapprochement with Malta

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya and Malta have ratified a 1976 agreement to refer their offshore territorial dispute to the International Court of Justice in The Hague, paving the way for a new era in relations. The ratification came on 27th March, after a two-day visit to Malta by Libya's

Foreign Liaison Secretary Abdel Ati al Obeidi, during which he held talks with Maltese Premier Dom Mintoff, the President, Miss Agatha Brabara, and Foreign Minister Dr Alex Sccebera Trigona.

The agreement marks the end of six years of increasingly strained relations between Malta and the Jamahiriya over offshore oil drilling rights. In October 1980 a Libyan warship escorted a drilling ship chartered by Malta out of the disputed area. In February last year the Jamahiriya banned all imports from Malta.

A joint communiqué issued on 27th March expressed a conviction that 'this normalisation of relations between the two countries enables the improvement of their political and economic relations'. The communiqué added: 'It was also agreed that trade relations return to normal as from today, and that the position of Libyan-Maltese joint ventures be strengthened'.

The ground was prepared for the agreement one week earlier, when Revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi paid a surprise visit to Malta while returning from a trip to Austria. During talks with Dom Mintoff, it was agreed in principle to ratify the two countries' 1976 agreement to refer the dispute to the International Court.

## Women must free themselves, says Qadhafi

A CALL for women to launch a major campaign to free themselves from oppression and exploitation has come from the Libyan leader, Muammer Qadhafi.

In an interview with West Germany's Voice of Cologne radio on 23rd March, Qadhafi declared: 'Both East and West need a female revolution which would restore to woman her humanity and free her from injustice and oppression.' Such a revolution, he continued, would also restore her natural family and marital relationships. Women would assure for themselves roles and duties that were in harmony with their physical and emotional attributes, and that ensured their rights as human beings.

In the West, said Qadhafi, women were regarded primarily as instruments of economic production. Any superficial appearance of equality with men was only because they had been forced to take on male roles. Women remained oppressed since such roles conflicted with their nature.

In the industrial countries, Muammer Qadhafi continued, family structure had been destroyed and badly needed restoring, since 'the family, relatives, motherhood, fatherhood and brotherhood are necessary for the development of a balanced personality'.

In the East, said the Libyan leader, 'woman is looked upon as an object of pleasure and a basis for building a home. She is bought and sold on this basis. It is the greatest abuse of women's freedom'.

Brother Qadhafi went on to explain the proposals for women's liberation set out in his *Green Book*, which guides the Al Fateh Revolution. 'Men and women cannot be differentiated in terms of their overall rights,' he declared. 'However, because of their different physical attributes, men and women are suited to different roles. Women should

carry out only those duties and tasks that are in harmony with their natures — such as motherhood.' At the same time, Qadhafi continued, women should have absolute freedom to take on any type of work they wanted. 'Only such freedom of choice can ensure that women work in jobs suited to their nature,' he declared.

Stressing that his views on women's liberation were firmly rooted in natural law, Muammer Qadhafi emphasised that the *Green Book's* proposals were not specifically Libyan, Arab or even Islamic. 'They are humanitarian and civilised, and apply to all women, wherever they might be.'

## Helping hand for Ghana

GHANA HAS taken delivery of about 500,000 barrels of crude oil donated by the Libyan Jamahiriya. The oil, worth \$20 million, was sufficient to cover the West African state's needs for three weeks. Delivery was completed on 24th March.

The corrupt regime of President Hilla Limann was overthrown on the last day of 1981, and replaced by a revolutionary regime headed by Flt Lt Jerry Rawlings. The change was welcomed by the Jamahiriya, and Ghana is now moving towards a system of direct democracy similar to that practised in Libya. The legacy of Limann's rule, however, is a range of severe economic problems, aggravated by the exploitative activities of multinational companies operating in the country.

After taking delivery of the first consignment of Libyan oil at Tema harbour on 19th March, Mr Appiah Korang, Secretary for Fuel and Power in Ghana's Provisional National Defence Council, thanked the Libyan people for their timely assistance. Accra radio quoted him as saying that the aid to Ghana 'proves with an unquestionable authenticity that Libya is prepared indeed to help Ghana'. He stressed his confidence that 'the precedent set by Libya in terms of co-operation between the two Third World countries will continue'.

It was disclosed in March that the Libyan Jamahiriya has offered to supply Ghana with cut-price oil for the next 15 years. Under the terms of the proposal, Ghana would not have to pay for the shipping of the crude. On 25th March a Ministry of Fuel and Power official was quoted by Accra radio as saying that negotiations were already under way for Ghana to buy 100,000 tonnes of oil from the Jamahiriya for delivery by the end of March.



Photo: D. Saltmann



Voices for peace: Muammar Qadhafi meets with (l-r) Roland Vogt, Otto Schily and Professor Egon Matzner.

## 'We support the peace movement'

### Muammar Qadhafi's dialogue with anti-war leaders in Vienna

THE FIRST steps towards closer co-operation between Arab progressives and the European peace movement were taken in Vienna on 12th March, when the Libyan leader held a two hour dialogue with leading members of the nuclear disarmament and independent left groups from West Germany, Italy and Austria. Muammar Qadhafi was making his first visit to a West European capital for many years, but nevertheless, despite a busy schedule of meetings, he had specifically requested that such a meeting be arranged.

From a transcript of the dialogue made available to *Jamahiriyah Review*, it is evident that the participants found much common ground in their attitudes towards super-power politics, mutual concern at the serious threat posed by nuclear weapons, and the restrictions placed on individual freedom and democracy by traditional political systems and ideologies.

Muammar Qadhafi has long advocated policies consistent with those of the European peace movement: Libya has rejected the manufacture and use of nuclear weapons, and repeatedly called for nuclear free zones to be created, specifically in the Mediterranean and Arab regions, and supported similar moves elsewhere, such as in the Indian Ocean. Moreover, revolutionary Libya has striven to secure the removal of all foreign military fleets and bases from the Mediterranean region.

And while the propaganda campaign being waged against the Libyan leader in the western media has made wild and unsubstantiated claims that Libya is responsible for financing European terrorist

**CONCERN AT the growing prospect of nuclear war between the super-powers should unite Arab and European progressives. This was the message from Muammar Qadhafi to leaders of the European peace movement at a specially convened dialogue, during the Libyan leader's recent visit to Austria.**

groups. Qadhafi has long looked on European and American peace groups, and those committed to 'alternative' political theories, as the real force for long-term and fundamental change.

'We support you, we support the new peace movement. We welcome this new direction in Europe, this new initiative for peace,' Muammar Qadhafi declared in his opening remarks to the assembled peace movement leaders (see inset box).

In response to the Libyan leader's request for those present to introduce themselves and their ideas, the first to contribute was Prof Mechtterscheimer. He commented that the meeting was an extremely unusual one, but the international situation and the growing danger of war demanded such exceptional events. There was a growing feeling that Europe had to stand up against the two super-powers which were together pushing the

world towards war; by Europe was meant not just western Europe, but the whole of Europe. There had been great interest, Prof Mechtterscheimer averred, in Qadhafi's April 1981 declaration of support for the reunification of Germany.

The peace movement in Germany was not against the United States alone, but against the policies of the governments of both super-powers. The central thesis of the Peace movement was that people should no longer follow governments which based their policies solely on the interests of the super-powers, said the professor.

Roland Vogt explained that the ecology movement had tried to put forward ideas for an alternative life style. This would be based on self-sufficiency, rather than the unlimited import of raw materials such as oil, which entailed a permanent danger of war over the control of such areas as the Gulf. Mr Vogt said that the movement was very concerned with the plans to install US medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, particularly in West Germany and in Sicily at Comiso. 'We believe that these rockets are not only a threat between the two blocs, from West to East, but just as much a threat by the North against the South.' It was important, he said, that efforts were made towards a common approach to the problem between Libya and the European peace movements.

'The current escalation of tension in Europe did not start with the Reagan Administration, but goes much further back,' commented Otto Schily. The positive effect had been that the people of Europe had begun to sense their own identity again, and this was 'a noticeable parallel in the political development of the Arab nation and the European nation,' he said. This could be the basis for productive co-operation between the two nations, based on mutual understanding of and respect for each other's culture.

Alexander Langer, from the Italian New Left, underlined the great differences between the other participants in the dialogue and Colonel Qadhafi, telling the Libyan leader: 'You struggled for power, and seized it. Today, we see hardly any possibility of radically altering the power structures of our countries.' But he urged the Libyan leader 'not to confuse the Italian people with NATO or the Italian government.' Such a distinction would enable an Italian-Arab dialogue to take place.

#### Economic crisis

Austrian Professor Egon Matzner stressed that the growing danger of war was equalled by the economic, social and cultural crises of the state bureaucracies of eastern Europe and the capitalist societies of the West. 'This creates panic, confusion, aggression. It is the breeding ground of violence and terrorism, who ever actually finances it. I am convinced that neither the capitalist model, nor the state bureaucracy model can overcome this crisis. That is why it is urgent that we find a third way. Basic components of this third



► way are greater democracy, more rights for people, in industrial production, in relation to state bureaucracy, in the family; and more rights for women.'

For the Austrian Young Socialists, Peter Pelinka said that despite the different cultural traditions of Europe and the Arab nation, Muammer Qadhafi stood as a symbol for two developments; firstly, the growing realisation of many young Austrians that international solidarity, such as that expressed by Libya for the Nicaraguan revolution, was a particularly important part of political activity. Second was the recognition that although the peace movement opposed the control of Europe by either super-power, the present policies of the US administration were 'the aggressive side of this coin', as the latest US threats against Libya had demonstrated.

The Libyan leader thanked all the participants for the expression of their views. 'In principle, I can see no basic differences of opinion between us. What has been said expresses what we wish and hope for. I am happy to find these sentiments in Europe,' Qadhafi said that the issues which had been raised were the symptoms of a crisis which all agreed existed. Their dialogue was directed towards finding a way out of the crisis, he said.

Brother Qadhafi remarked that it was no coincidence that both the ecology movement in Europe and the Libyan revolution had chosen green as their colour. 'The colour green was not chosen by accident. It represents hope, life and growth, paradise, spring. Against green is counterpoised fire and destruction. I doubt whether a war can be green, nor industry, neither evil nor perdition,' he declared.

The green flag, said the Libyan leader, should be raised as a symbol to mankind of hope for material changes which would come, a hope for better things in the future.

*The Green Book*, said the Libyan leader, started from the realisation that the economic, social and political crisis meant that the world was in a blind alley. This crisis could lead to a catastrophe which Marxism and capitalism could seek, because of their bankruptcy, to resolve by violence. Humanity would be the victim.

'But if the masses will take their place, and societies will change, and then people's aggressive feelings will disappear. For example, there is certainly no enmity between the Libyan and the American people on a personal level. The aggressive and reactionary attitudes emanate from the Reagan administration. All the statements directed against the Libyan people come from Reagan, not from the American people,' he continued.

'We certainly don't believe,' said the Libyan leader, 'that the ordinary person in the street has a need to attack another country. So, we want ordinary people to take power. There will be no government, no parties, no military machine, but instead, people's congresses and people's committees.'

## Better than uniform

*IN THE course of the conversation, Roland Vogt of the ecology movement remarked that although Professor Mechttersheimer was a former Colonel, he now wore civilian clothes and worked for the peace movement. Mr Vogt told Colonel Qadhafi: 'Next time you visit us, it would encourage the peace movement greatly if you emerged from your plane dressed as you are now' [in traditional robes] 'rather than in uniform.'*

*The Libyan leader smiled and replied: 'Because of the peace movement, next time I'll come in civilian clothes.'*

Qadhafi emphasised that it was the wealthy who profited from war, and the powerful who resisted the loss of their power. But wealth and power had to be taken from them, and ordinary people given the possibility to control their own lives. It was also necessary to create a movement which would guard these gains with the utmost vigilance, in order that they could not be reversed.

'That is the beginning of a new world, of the era of the masses, of the Jama-hiriya, as we call it in Libya,' Brother Qadhafi declared.

## Peace leaders who met Qadhafi

PARTICIPANTS IN Muammer Qadhafi's dialogue with leading members of the European Peace Movement were:

**Professor Alfred Mechttersheimer**, one of the leading thinkers of the Peace Movement in West Germany, formerly a Colonel in the German Army, and now Director of a Peace Research Institute in Starnberg, Bavaria;

**Roland Vogt**, a member of the central committee of 'The Green Party' and the Citizens' Action Group on Environmental Protection, a member of the European Parliament;

**Otto Schily**, West Berlin lawyer and civil liberty campaigner, a founder of the 'Alternative List', an electoral alliance of radical and environmentalist groups;

**Alexander Langer**, a founder of the Italian New Left Party, a member of the regional assembly in the city of Bolzano;

**Professor Egon Matzner**, teacher of Economics at Vienna University, and a prominent theoretician of the ruling party in Austria, the Social Democrats (SPO);

**Peter Pelinka**, member of the central board of the Austrian Young Socialists, youth wing of the SPO.

The meeting was organised by the Austrian Society for North-South Relations.

An important part of the *Green Book*, Qadhafi said, was devoted to the question of racism and the problems of national minorities. 'The Jews were oppressed in Europe, and were forced to find a land for themselves. That led to the Palestinian people being driven from their land. The Jews who had come to Palestine should return to their own lands, the Libyan leader said, and be guaranteed identical treatment there as members of other religions. Oriental Jews should stay in Palestine and build a democratic Palestinian state together with the Palestinians, he said.

## Israel and the bomb

The present regime was racist and aggressive, and certainly had nuclear weapons, Qadhafi declared. 'Israel has refused to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. Israeli planes are quite capable of dropping atom bombs; this nuclear power must be brought under control, and this could be a basic step for the peace movement,' the Libyan leader insisted.

'Once the Israelis have been forbidden to use atomic weapons, then the whole area, the whole of the Middle East, could be declared a nuclear free zone,' Brother Qadhafi added.

The Libyan leader set out his view that although the most important goal was peace, it was necessary to defend oneself on occasion. In particular, he asked those present at the dialogue what Libya should do if the US Sixth Fleet once again sailed into the Gulf of Sirte. 'Should we simply hold up a peace symbol, or are we forced to fight?' he asked. The peace movement might see Libya's actions as a mistake, but, Brother Qadhafi explained, 'If the Sixth Fleet loses, then I believe that this is a victory for peace.'

In reply, lawyer Otto Schily warned that in addressing the question of Palestine, it would not be right for two enormous crimes — the treatment of the Jews in Europe, and the consequent Zionist dispossession of the Palestinian people — to be followed by a third — the forced eviction of a large number of Jewish immigrants from Palestine. But he said that there was no question that large sections of the peace movement, himself included, recognised the right of small countries to defend themselves against outside aggression, and of national liberation movements to take up armed struggle against imperialism.

Summing up the meeting, Qadhafi described it as 'the preamble to future meetings with our friends'. He added, 'I consider this a very good starting point for future encounters. We can't discuss everything at once, but we will hopefully achieve our aims together.'

'Our resources are available for the creation of a new world. That, finally, is what I want to emphasise to you. You can depend on me as a colleague and co-worker for the realisation of this dream,' he concluded.



WILLIAM WILSON became the first British parliamentarian to visit the Libyan Jamahiriya for some years when he attended an international conference in support of the workers and people of Palestine, Namibia and South Africa in Tripoli during March. Mr Wilson represented the British Labour Middle East Council, which supports a peaceful settlement in the Arab homeland based on the realisation of the rights of the Palestinian people.

The conference was attended by representatives of more than 150 trade union and workers' organisations from all over the world, as well as secretaries of Libya's Basic People's Congresses and of unions and vocational congresses. The foreign delegates came from virtually all European countries, many nations of Africa and Asia, and from Latin America.

The central theme, Mr Wilson explained, was that the workers of Palestine, Namibia and South Africa had one important thing in common. As well as being exploited as workers, they were also nationally oppressed, in that they were exploited by outsiders, the European settlers in the case of Namibia and South Africa, the Zionists in the case of Palestine.

The keynote speech to the Conference was given by Staff Major Abdul Salem Jalloud, a leading member of the Free Unionist Officers' movement which overthrew the former monarchy of Idris Sanussi in September 1969. The theme of Major Jalloud's speech was that behind the oppression in Palestine, Namibia and South Africa lay the support of the US administration for Israel and the South African regime. The main objective of the US, he told delegates, was 'to destroy popular movements, subjugate workers, thwart any positive ideas and destroy all victories by peoples of the developed countries.'

The sessions, Mr Wilson said, were long but extremely interesting. After three days' work, the solidarity conference passed a final resolution of support for Palestinian, Namibian and South African workers, and specifically backed the creation of a unified media network to serve the goals of liberation movements, and the establishment of a fund in Libya to support such movements.

#### High standard

Mr Wilson, making his first-ever visit to Libya, said that he had been impressed by the evidently high standard of living enjoyed by the Libyan people. 'I was surprised by the absence of public transport, but this is evidently because nearly everyone has a car,' he said; 'and you don't buy a car if you haven't got enough to eat.'

'We were shown one of Tripoli's new departmental stores. I was very interested in this; whenever I go abroad, I make it my business to look round the places where ordinary people do their shopping, to see what they can buy and what sort of prices they have to pay. This store, which I gather is one of several in various parts of

## Colonialism, traditions and democracy in Libya

### A British MP's view of the Jamahiriya

**WILLIAM WILSON, Labour MP for Coventry South East, recently visited the Libyan Jamahiriya as a delegate to a conference of solidarity with Palestinian and South African workers. He described his impressions of the Jamahiriya to Phil Kelly.**

Tripoli, had a very varied range of goods. I saw top class British-made shirts, French perfumes, Japanese videos, even Pierre Cardin ties. And the goods there were not just a display; people were buying them. It seemed to me that the standard of living of ordinary people was really quite high,' Mr Wilson said.

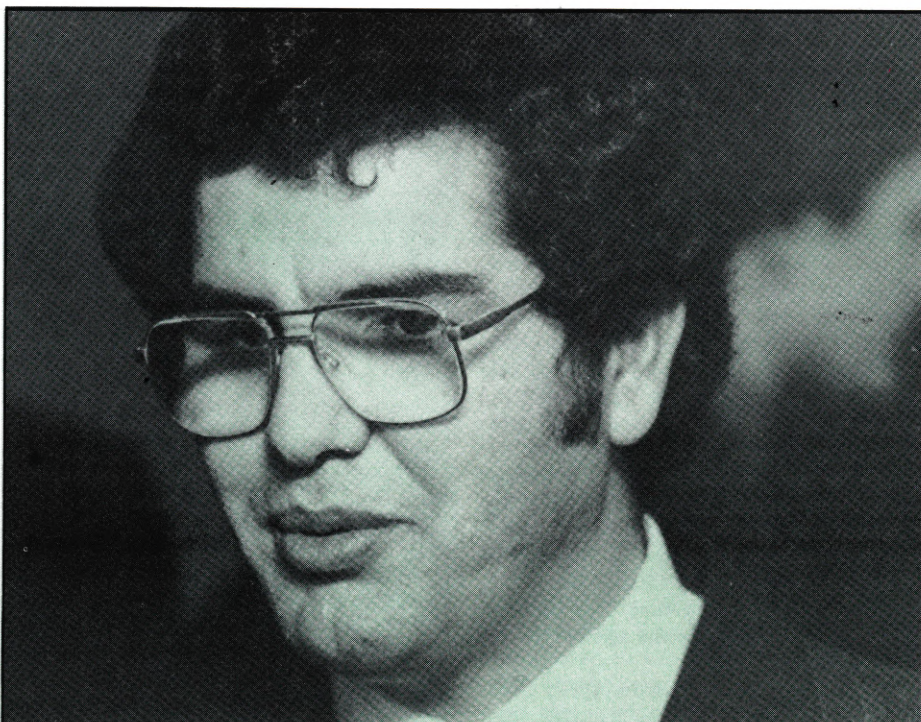
The Labour MP felt that it was important that in assessing the present economic position of Libya, it should be remembered that the revolution was only thirteen years old, and that under the Turkish and Italian occupations, and under the former monarchy, ordinary Libyans had never been considered. 'To get over this colonial atmosphere and create your

own system, thirteen years is not very long,' Mr Wilson pointed out.

He had read the *Green Book* of Muammar Qadhafi, and expressed his feeling that it was an attempt to set out a genuine form of socialism: 'Democracy is not simply having a parliament, with a government and an opposition party. Democracy can show itself in many ways; and democratic processes must develop according to the traditions of the country. I think that Libya is another example of a democratic way.'

'I was interviewed by Libyan Television, who were naturally interested in the comments of a British MP. I said very clearly that I felt that the United States had no business launching naval manoeuvres in the Gulf of Sirte. There was no need for them to sail in in this way. If the Americans can come thousands of miles and sail round the Mediterranean, then who can object to the Soviet Union doing so? The Americans are clearly in breach of international law in that they have been doing,' said Mr Wilson, who is a lawyer as well as a parliamentarian.

'I told Libyan TV that it was ridiculous for a country the size of the United States to threaten a country of 3 million people thousands of miles away. If the events were not so potentially tragic, it would be a comedy,' he concluded.



The new Secretary of the People's Committee at the Libyan People's Bureau in London, Mr Adem Kuviri (above) addressed a meeting of Labour MPs at the House of Commons during April. Amongst those present were Stan Newens MP, Chairman of Liberation, Ernie Ross MP, Chairman of Trade Union Friends of Palestine, and David Watkins MP, Chairman of the Labour Middle East Council.



## Concrete steps taken to realise Libyan-Algerian unity scheme

**A SERIES of measures aimed at closer economic and political co-operation between Libya and Algeria have been agreed, only a few months after Muammer Qadhafi outlined a programme aimed at securing union between the two Arab states. Further progress is also reported on the Libyan-Syrian unity plan.**

LIBYA AND Algeria have taken their first concrete steps towards the union proposed by Muammer Qadhafi in his speech to January's meeting of the General People's Congress, the Libyan legislature. On 3rd April the Algerian Council of Ministers and the Libyan General People's Committee — the equivalent of a cabinet in traditional political systems — held a joint meeting in Algiers to prepare the ground for the adoption of unified economic, social and cultural policies.

The two countries already co-ordinate their foreign policies. Both are members of the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, set up to counter the Camp David accords and other US-sponsored schemes to undermine the independence of the Arab homeland. The other members of the Front are Democratic Yemen, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Unveiling his proposals for unity between Libya, Syria and Algeria at the General People's Congress in January, Muammer Qadhafi disclosed that the aim was not the establishment of a single state, but the formulation and pursuit of closely co-ordinated policies. He stressed that there was no need for any changes in the internal political structure in the three countries.

On 19th January Qadhafi paved the way for the joint meeting of the Algerian Cabinet and the Libyan General People's Committee, when he flew to Algiers for talks with President Chadli Benjedid. Algiers radio reported that 'the issue of Arab unity' was high on the agenda during the two leaders' talks.

At the Algiers meeting in April, Libya and Algeria agreed to co-ordinate their overall socio-economic development plans, and the Libyan Planning Secretary and Algeria's Planning Minister were charged with studying the question with a view to

submitting firm proposals to the next joint ministerial meeting.

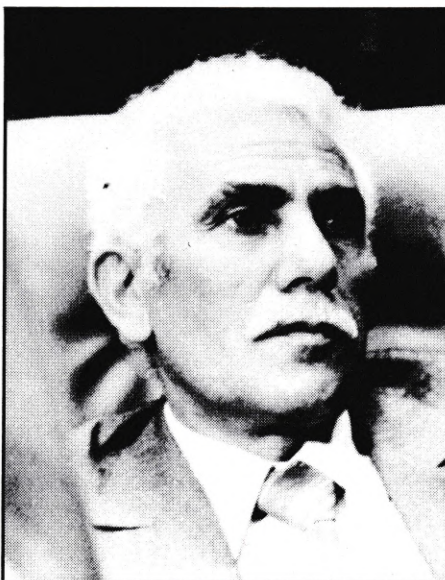
Within the broader context of co-ordination of economic development, the Libyan Heavy Industry Secretary and Algerian Minister of Industry were requested to submit proposals for the establishment of new joint industrial projects to the next meeting of the Council of Ministers and General People's Committee.

Libya and Algeria are both committed to the attainment of self-sufficiency in food, and it was agreed to step up joint research in irrigation techniques. A joint company for drilling irrigation wells is to be established this year, it was announced.

On finance, the Algiers meeting agreed to bolster the activities of the existing joint Algerian-Libyan banks and insurance and reinsurance companies, and to increase the two countries' joint aid programmes in developing countries.

Oil and gas are key factors in the economies of both Algeria and the Libyan Jamahiriya, and, in addition to agreeing to co-ordinate their hydrocarbons policies, the Libyan-Algerian meeting decided to establish this year a joint company for geophysics, and another for research and production. As part of the moves towards mutual economic integration, it was decided to launch studies of a project to supply the western part of the Jamahiriya with Algerian gas.

The Libyan-Algerian meeting to decide to co-ordinate the two countries' foreign trade policies, and to expand the flow of passengers and goods between the two



Algeria's President Benjedid: 'An example to this nation'.

*SHORTLY AFTER April's joint meeting of the Algerian cabinet and the Libyan General People's Committee, further steps were taken towards co-ordinating the Libyan Jamahiriya's policies with those of Syria. On 15th April a meeting ended in Damascus between a Libyan General People's Congress (GPC) delegation headed by Mr Ali Bilkhayr, the GPC's Assistant Secretary, and a Syrian Ba'ath Party team headed by Mr Tawfiq Salihah, a key part official.*

*Two years ago, Muammer Qadhafi called for unity between Libya and Syria, and April's talks in Damascus were the latest in a series of meetings between Libyan and Syrian officials aimed at forging common policies between the two countries. A statement issued on 15th April confirmed that Syria and Libya would continue their detailed consultations.*

*The close ties between the two countries were underlined on 13th April, when Abdel Salam Jalloud, an aide of Muammer Qadhafi, held talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafez al Assad to discuss the current situation in the Arab homeland, and the possible convening of a summit meeting of the Arab Confrontation and Steadfastness Front.*

north African states. Algeria and Libya agreed to give priority to each other's imports, and to establish new marketing facilities aimed at boosting mutual trade.

Important decisions were also reached on culture and education. It was decided to co-ordinate the two countries' school curricula, and to set up new research institutes. In the fields of information and culture the Libyan Secretaries and Algerian Ministers agreed to develop their broadcasting sectors in the framework of an overall plan. The mutual exchange of sports teams and youth delegations will be stepped up, to give young people a greater appreciation of the achievements of the Libyan and Algerian revolutions. The two countries will also speed up the mutual flow of tourists by issuing special tourist visas.

April's joint Libyan-Algerian ministerial meeting was opened by President Benjedid, and in a message broadcast by Tripoli radio on 3rd April, Muammer Qadhafi thanked him for hosting the talks, and for having personally opened them. The Libyan leader described the meeting as 'an earnest and certain turning point towards realising the great objective and the great hope, Arab unity'. President Benjedid, he added, had 'given an example of sincerity to this nation so it can get out of the state of words and wishes, and into the circle of action'.

□ A report of Muammer Qadhafi's speech to the General People's Congress appeared in the February 1982 issue of Jamahiriya Review, and his visit to Algeria with details of the unity plan was reported in the March 1982 issue.





Photo: Network

**UNARMED PALESTINIANS in Zionist occupied Palestine are staging a defiant stand against Israel's plans to annex the West Bank and Gaza Strip. On the recently annexed Syrian Golan Heights, the Zionists have faced determined resistance from the Arab inhabitants.**

ISRAEL'S TERROR campaign against the Palestinians of the 1967 occupied territories has reached a new pitch with daily shootings of Arabs by Zionist troops and extremist settlers. The worst atrocity came on 11th April, when a group of Israeli soldiers burst into the Mosque of Omar in occupied Arab Jerusalem, firing into crowds of worshippers in Islam's third holiest shrine. The violent attacks on Palestinians, are part of a wider Zionist strategy to drive out the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as the prelude to annexing the occupied regions.

A key element in the Israeli strategy has been to neutralise the nationalist Arab leadership in the 1967 occupied territories. The elected Mayors in the West Bank have for years been persistent targets for harassment and intimidation by Israeli troops and armed settlers. In 1980 the Zionists summarily deported the Mayors of the towns of Hebron and Halhoul. Shortly after, Mayor Bassam Shaka of Nablus and Karim Khalaf of Ramallah were both maimed in car bomb attacks, perpetrated by Zionist settlers in collaboration with Israeli intelligence.

In its latest bid to eliminate the local Palestinian leadership, the Zionist military authorities on 18th March dismissed the Mayor and entire city council of occupied El Bireh, on the pretext that the municipal leaders had refused to meet with Colonel Menachem Milson, the Israeli 'civilian' governor of the West Bank. The move prompted a wave of angry protests by Palestinians.

Occupied forces responded with their habitual ferocity. Soldiers and armed settlers fired point blank at demonstrators, killing and wounding scores. Many more Palestinians were wounded in tear gas and baton attacks. Tight curfews were clamped on a number of towns and villages. In a vain attempt to break a general strike, Israeli troops threatened shopowners with imprisonment or the permanent closure of their premises.

On 25th March, the Zionists moved again. Mayors Bassam Shaka of Nablus and Karim Khalaf of Ramallah were summoned to local military headquarters and served with dismissal notices. Both are now under house arrest. The dismissals of two of the most widely respected political figures in the 1967 occupied territories brought the wave of Palestinian protests to a new pitch. The Zionists ▶



Photo: Network



Photo: Gamma

Top: A Palestinian woman expresses her defiance in the face of armed Zionist troops outside the Dome of the Rock in occupied Arab Jerusalem; Centre: Zionist police deal with a Palestinian demonstrator following the shooting at the Dome of the Rock; Bottom: Zionist occupation troops patrol the deserted streets of towns on the West Bank.

## Zionists prepare to annex West Bank Palestine



► maintained their policy of using maximum force against the unarmed protesters; more Arabs were killed and wounded.

## Collaborators

The neutralisation of the elected Palestinian leadership in the 1967 occupied territories is only part of the Zionists' strategy. The other is to create a compliant 'alternative' leadership of collaborators. Israel has been sponsoring and funding a number of village leagues on the West Bank. Ostensibly these are self-help organisations, but their real purpose is more sinister. Israel has blocked the flow of badly needed development funds from Arab countries to the West Bank municipalities, and has moved to curb the influence of the elected Mayors. Meanwhile, the village leagues are provided with abundant finance by the Zionists, and many of the powers of the municipalities are systematically being transferred to the leagues. Israel's hope is that the Palestinian masses will be rendered dependent on the collaborationist village leagues, and transfer their loyalties away from the nationalist mayors.

The Zionist strategy on the West Bank is the brainchild of the recently appointed Israeli 'civilian' governor, Menachem Milson, who is actually a Colonel in the Israeli army. Milson was appointed on 1st November last. His counterpart in the occupied Gaza Strip is Brigadier-General Yosef Lunz, the region's 'former' military governor.

Milson's objective is to annex the West Bank under the guise of implementing the Camp David autonomy scheme. Camp David called for an 'autonomous' Palestinian council in the West Bank and Gaza. But its powers would be limited to such matters as bus services and refuse collection. Even then its every act would be subject to an Israeli veto. The regions would remain under Zionist occupation. The Palestinians rejected the proposal outright, as falling far short of their right to an independent state of their own in Palestine. Unable to come up with any genuine Palestinian leaders ready to take part in the autonomy plot, the Zionists set about nurturing their collaborationist 'alternative' leadership.

Zionist territorial designs on the West Bank and Gaza are not inconsistent with the Camp David scheme. In fact, Camp David offers a useful cloak of spurious international legality for the Israeli plan. Shortly after the accords were signed, Zionist premier Menachem Beigin declared that 'autonomy' would apply only to people, and not to land.

The only factor making the Zionists pause is the presence of the 1.2 million Palestinian Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Zionism is a racist philosophy, and there has never been room in the Zionist state for a substantial non-Jewish minority. Zionist aims are the same today as they were at the turn of the century: they want the land, but not the people.

In the 1948 Palestine war, the Zionists

succeeded in driving out the majority of Arabs from the area on which Israel was set up. Since 1967, the Israelis have done all they can to 'encourage' Palestinians to emigrate from the West Bank and Gaza. Last November the American Foundation for Peace in the Middle East reported that more than 250,000 Palestinians had left the West Bank since its seizure in 1967. About 12,000 Arabs leave the West Bank each year. One reason is the intimidation and harassment by the occupation forces and armed settlers. Another is the lack of employment opportunities. Israel has deliberately starved the occupied territories of development funds. Skilled



## Sacrilege at Islam's third holiest shrine

*MUSLIMS HAVE been outraged by an attack staged by Israeli troops in the Mosque of Omar in occupied Arab Jerusalem. Dating from the seventh century, the mosque is the third holiest shrine in Islam.*

*On 11th April Israeli troops stormed the shrine, firing indiscriminately at worshippers. By the time the men had run out of ammunition two Palestinians had been killed and seven wounded.*

*Israel tried to dismiss the outrage as the work of a single 'mentally deranged' man. But the American settler responsible for most of the shooting was in fact a serving member of the Zionist army, and his weapon was a standard army-issue American M-16 rifle. West Bank Arabs pointed out that if he had been really psychologically unstable, he would never have been accepted into the Israeli army.*

*It emerged later that the gunman had at least one accomplice, reinforcing Arab suspicions that the atrocity was officially inspired. On 16th April Christopher Walker commented in The Times: 'The new evidence (of the presence of more than one killer) has been embarrassing to the Israeli government, which has been at pains to emphasise that the fatal shooting was the work of one mentally deranged man.'*

*The Jerusalem outrage prompted a one week general strike throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Thousands of Palestinians took to the streets to show their anger, and their rejection of the Israeli occupation. Zionist troops shot point-blank at demonstrators, killing several and wounding scores. One of those killed in the Gaza Strip was a seven-year old boy.*

Palestinian workers cannot find work within the Zionist state, and have no option but to emigrate in search of a livelihood. The only employment opportunities in Israel for Palestinians are unskilled manual jobs. The Zionists regard the West Bank Palestinians as a useful pool of cheap labour, in much the same way as the apartheid regime in Pretoria looks to the Bantustans as a source of cheap labour.

## Exodus

There are clear signs that the Zionists are planning to force a mass exodus of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to pave the way for outright annexation. The systematic violence with which the occupation forces attempted to quell the Palestinian protests in March and April suggests that a key aim was to induce panic amongst the population, prompting them to flee.

On 15th April Zionist radio disclosed that senior army officers had requested much greater 'flexibility' in the rules governing the firing of live ammunition at Arab protesters. It was an ominous request from men who had already killed and wounded scores of demonstrators in a few short weeks.

On 25th March the Hebrew daily *Davar* quoted Gaza Palestinians as saying, 'The army is doing everything to encourage a flight of inhabitants from the Gaza Strip'. The report centred on the attempted rape of a local Arab schoolgirl by a Zionist army officer.

Similar acts of gratuitous violence, not directly connected with Palestinian protest demonstrations, have occurred in the West Bank. On 8th April, only three days before the atrocity at the Dome of the Rock, a forty-year old Palestinian mother was shot dead by an Israeli soldier working her family farm near the Zionist settlement of Beit El. The soldier claimed that she had tried to steal ammunition from an Israeli army base, but Eric Silver reported in *The Guardian* on 10th April: 'Arab witnesses maintained that the woman was tilling a field of oats with her four children when she was killed by a single shot.'

Under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, however, the Palestinians are today much more united than they were in 1948, when the Zionist terrorist groups had little difficulty in expelling them in their hundreds of thousands. The Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza, together with their brethren in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, are standing firm. But the worst may yet be in store. The heavily armed Zionist settlers in the 1967 occupied territories have already played a part in the terror campaign against the Palestinian Arabs. As the Zionist government grows increasingly desperate in the face of a Palestinian steadfastness, it may unleash a campaign of terror by the settlers that would make the recent shootings in the West Bank and Gaza pale into insignificance.



A ZIONIST attempt to break a general strike by the 15,000 Syrians of the occupied Golan Heights has failed, despite the imposition of a six-week blockade on the region by the occupation forces. The strike, called to protest last December's annexation of the Golan Heights and the arrest of local Arab leaders, has already been in force for more than two months and shows no sign of ending. Israel is now alarmed at the growing solidarity between the Golan Syrians and the Palestinians living under Zionist occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Golan strike was called on 14th February. Its immediate cause was the arrest of four local Syrians accused by Israel of inciting resistance to the annexation, but the question of Zionist identity cards was another key issue. For the past year the occupation forces have been trying to coerce the Syrian Arabs into replacing their military IDs with civilian documents. The Golan residents have resolutely spurned the new IDs, arguing that to accept them would imply acquiescence in permanent Israeli domination. In March, Zionist interior minister Yosef Burg declared that as of 1st April all adult Syrians would be required to carry civilian documents.

Faced with a total strike on the Golan, the Zionists on 25th February sealed off the region's four largest villages. Road blocks were set up, the villages were ringed with barbed wire, and telephone lines were cut. The only residents allowed through the Zionists' ring of steel were the few collaborators who had accepted the new identity cards. During the blockade, occupation forces went from house to house, systematically intimidating the Syrians in a vain bid to force them to accept the new identity cards.

On 13th March the London weekly *8 Days* quoted Mr Ahmad Qadamani, a prominent personality from the Golan village of Majdal Shams, as saying, 'We will not give in, however harsh our daily living conditions are made. This so-called only democratic state in the region does not even allow medical supplies to our children to go through, and stops reporters from covering the difficulties our people are going through.'

He continued: 'If the Security Council is not discussing the Golan, whatever happens there — and however badly the villagers are treated — does not seem newsworthy. In Europe there are organisations which defend the rights of animals. But our people, basic requirements such as water are being denied.'

Even some Zionists were shocked by the occupation forces' treatment of the Golan Druse during the strike and blockade. On 15th April Haim Cohen, a retired Supreme Court judge, and Chairman of the Israel Civil Rights Association said that the Syrians had been treated harshly and illegally since going on strike. He cited one case in which a girl with her eyes bandaged after an accident had been prevented from leaving her



*Syrian Druse inhabitants of the Golan Heights walk past shuttered shops in Majdal Shams during the strike to protest the Zionists' illegal annexation of the territory.*

## Golan Syrians defeat Zionist blockade

**DESPITE INTIMIDATION unprecedented in the lands seized by Israel in 1967, the Arabs of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights are staging a general strike that has lasted for more than two months, and shows no sign of petering out. Dr Alan George reports on the defiant protest action.**

village to receive hospital treatment because she was not carrying acceptable identification. 'The only law on the Golan Heights is barbarian law,' he declared.

Most residents of the Golan Heights are members of the Druse religion, an offshoot of Islam. During the fifteen years of occupation, Israel has tried to prevent any solidarity developing between the Golan Heights and the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza by exploiting their different cultural traditions. But the signs of the Zionists' failure are unmistakable.

With the imposition of the Golan siege, West Bank Palestinians swiftly organised relief deliveries to the blockaded villages. Alarmed at this development, occupation forces clamped down on the relief operation. On 26th February four West Bankers who had organised food and medical deliveries were placed under town arrest. They included Dr Amin al Hatib, head of the Union of Charitable Societies in Arab Jerusalem, and Mr Samih Abu Issa, a member of Hebron's Red Crescent Committee. Relief parcels and cash gifts assembled in the West Bank for shipment to the Golan Druse were seized by the Zionists. Relief lorries that did

succeed in reaching the Golan were turned back at road blocks, and their loads confiscated.

In late February, Druse leaders in the Golan cabled Palestinian leaders in the West Bank declaring: 'Your struggle and our struggle against the occupation are one.' The Druse residents of the 1948 occupied territories also demonstrated their support for the Golan strike. On 26th March Druse from throughout the Galilee region of northern Palestine staged a rally in the village of Shafr Amr in solidarity with the blockaded Syrian villagers.

### **Tear gas and bullets**

Zionist occupation forces in the Golan responded to protest demonstrations during the general strike with the same ferocity as the troops in the occupied Palestinian territories. On 16th March Druse in the village of Majdal Shams took to the streets in protest at the Zionist blockade. They were attacked with tear gas and batons, and a strict curfew was clamped on the village. On 2nd April troops fired point blank at demonstrators in Majdal Shams and Mas'ada, wounding four Syrian Arabs. Scores of Druse from the two communities were arrested.

Initially the Zionists set 1st April as the date for lifting the Golan blockade. Their hope was that the Syrian protest action would have crumbled by then, and that the majority of Druse would have accepted Zionist identity cards, in accordance with the interior minister's deadline. But with no sign of any break in the Syrians' stubborn resistance, the Israelis extended the siege in a final bid to break the Druse morale. It was already clear, however, that the Zionists would be forced to concede defeat, and on 5th April the blockade was finally lifted, after six weeks.



# Western Sahara: The evasive peace on the OAU agenda

AT LAST year's OAU summit in Nairobi there was rejoicing amongst African leaders that a formula appeared to have been reached on which peace would be restored to the war-torn territory in the Western Sahara. Both Polisario, the liberation movement representing the Saharan people, and the Moroccan government, which took over the territory when Spain evacuated her colony in 1975, had agreed to a referendum to determine the territory's future.

Yet less than a year later, both sides are locked in a military and diplomatic confrontation, more intense and bitter than at any time in the past. Polisario has been strengthened in its position by the recognition afforded the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic. SADR was proclaimed by Polisario in 1976, and is today recognised by a narrow majority of OAU member states. Morocco, meanwhile, has adopted a tougher stand, encouraged by the firmer support given by Washington under the Reagan administration.

At stake for the Saharans is their right to self-determination and national independence, which was denied them at the time of the Spanish withdrawal in 1975. Instead, Spain agreed with Morocco and Mauritania for the region's partition and administration by the neighbouring states to the north and south. At stake for the Moroccans are the rich phosphate resources of the region which could enhance the kingdom's economy. In turn, these resources have drawn US multinationals to lobby the White House to support King Hassan following Mauritania's decision to withdraw its claim over part of the territory in 1979; military set-backs and the crippling burden of the cost of the war brought about Mauritania's decision.

Morocco justifies its position by arguing that Polisario and SADR have been artificially created by Polisario's prime

**THE WAR in the Western Sahara, between Polisario and Morocco, has deeply divided the members of the Organisation of African Unity. With Libya committed to securing a political settlement, and about to host the 1982 OAU summit, Louis Eaks examines this little-publicised war.**

supporters, Algeria and Libya. Polisario, says Morocco, is part of a communist scheme to destabilise the region and the Moroccan regime. This has led to a major stumbling block to a negotiated settlement: Morocco does not recognise Polisario, and will not engage in face-to-face talks.

A second problem has arisen over the two sides' interpretation of the proposal for a referendum which was agreed at the Nairobi OAU summit last year. Morocco insists that the referendum should be based on the 1974 Spanish census which gives the population of the region at 40,000; Polisario puts the population at 750,000, while an independent assessment from *Agence France Presse* concedes a population of 250,000.

Faced with a firm stand by Morocco on the issues of recognising Polisario and over the referendum, Polisario returned to the military offensive last October and dealt a severe blow to the Moroccan forces. In the largest battle of the war, Saharan forces attacked the two last important positions held by Morocco outside the so-called 'Useful Triangle', a fortified area bringing the phosphate region with a 'wall' to stop Saharan attacks. Polisario forces destroyed the 2,000-



strong Moroccan garrison at Guelta Zemmour, captured a great deal of equipment and downed five Moroccan planes. At the beginning of the attack, the destruction of the US supplied C130 Hercules observation plane in charge of co-ordinating the aerial attack blinded the Moroccan air support, forcing the planes to fly low and opening them to ground fire from Saharan forces. Moreover, the Saharans destroyed the electronic defence system installed in 1980 by French and North American specialists, rendering access difficult to the country's western region.

If Polisario had hoped this offensive would lead to a change in Morocco's stance towards the OAU formula, it was wrong. The Rabat government has remained firm, and the United States has responded by increasing its military support to Morocco; reports suggest that at least twelve American military advisers are now present in the area, assisting with aviation and communications at Smara and El-Aioun.

A recent decision to admit SADR to the OAU has created further divisions within the OAU, with Morocco's supporters threatening to boycott further meetings of the African body so long as SADR has membership. The next three months leading up to the OAU summit in Tripoli, when the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi will become Chairman of the OAU for the next year, provides little time for a political settlement to be reached.

## 'A political solution should be found quickly'

*'THE PRESENT crisis in the OAU makes it imperative that a political solution should be quickly found to the Western Sahara problem,' declared a communiqué issued on behalf of Libya, Mauritania, Chad, Mali and Niger at the end of the sixth summit conference of countries bordering the Sahara, held in the Mauritanian capital in late March.*

*Staff Major Abdul Salaam Jalloud, who attended on behalf of the Libyan Jamahiriya, viewed the conference as*

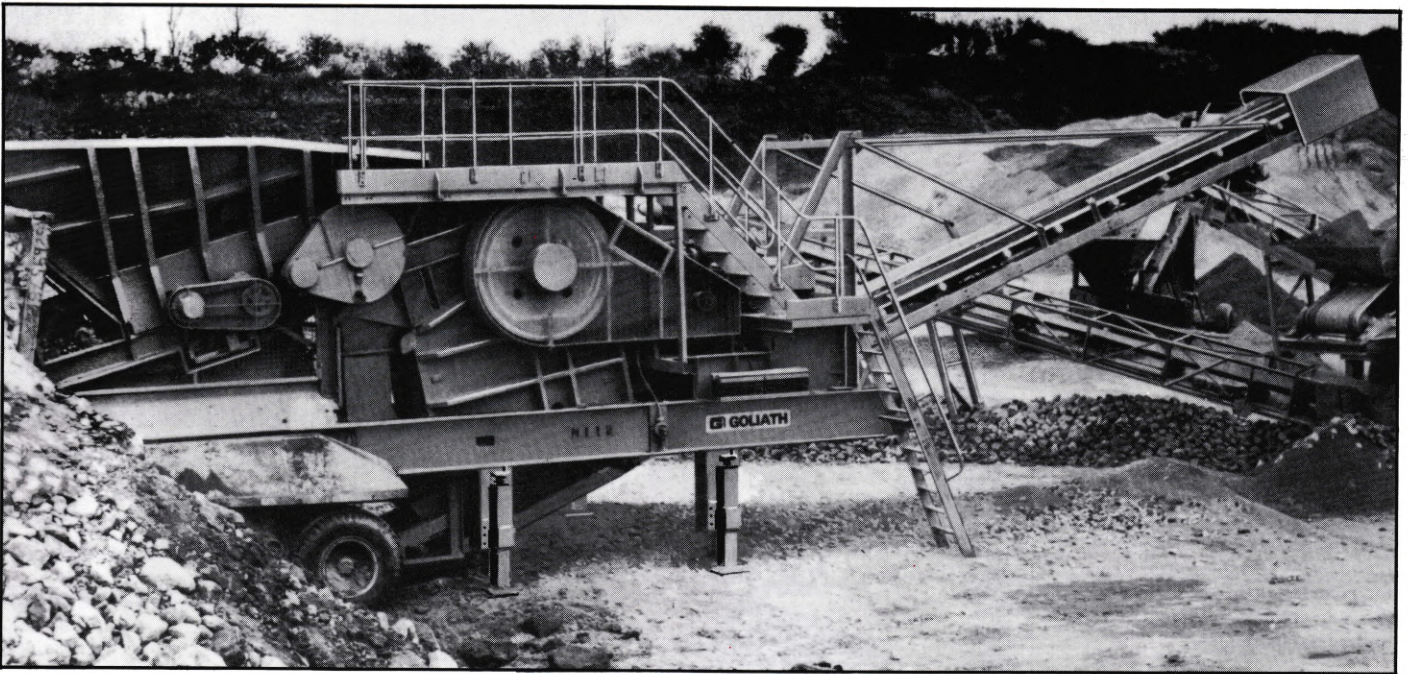
*an important move in consolidating Afro-Arab co-operation.*

*The final communiqué issued in Mouakchott on 30th March, said: 'On the Western Sahara, the conference discussed recent developments and re-affirmed the political statement issued following the Bamako summit, expressing support for the Sahrawi people's right to self-determination. They also referred to the urgent need to implement decisions taken by the UN and OAU in a bid to find a just and*

*final solution to the dispute in the Western Sahara. They expressed concern at the increasing tension in the Western Sahara, saying it constitutes a threat to regional peace and security. They said that the present crisis in the OAU makes it imperative that a political solution should be quickly found to the Western Sahara problem.'*

□ See *Panorama News Review* for other issues discussed at the Nouakchott summit.





Boosting Libya's development programme: Goodwin Barsby's Goliath primary crushing plant.

## Libya creates jobs in Leicester

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya's development has been on such a scale that visitors often describe the country as a vast construction site. Libya's 1981-85 development plan alone allocates \$62.5 billion to expand all sectors, from industry and agriculture to health, education and roads. With construction pressing ahead on such a range of projects, Libya has needed a fully array of construction equipment. One of the firms helping to meet requirements is Leicester-based Goodwin Barsby, which manufactures specialised asphalt and rock crushing machinery.

Goodwin Barsby's first involvement in Libya was through orders placed by Indian contracting firms. The India Roads Construction Corporation and the International Airports Authority of India placed important orders in connection with their construction projects. The British equipment, however, soon attracted a wider interest, and the Libyan contracting firm Arab Union United Corporation recently placed an order for two of Goodwin Barsby's Goliath mobile crushing and screening plants, which are used for processing wadi gravel and limestone rock. AUCC is currently considering the purchase of more Goodwin Barsby plant.

Libya is aware that one of the major constraints on its socio-economic development programme is the shortage of skilled workers that characterises any Third World country. The 1981-85 development plan plus special emphasis on technical training for the Jamahiriya's citizens, and Goodwin Barsby is playing a role towards that end. The firm currently has seven engineers in Libya whose task is to install and commission the firm's plant, and to train citizens to take over and operate the machinery.

The British firm, which exports about

**LIBYA'S AMBITIOUS development programme requires a full range of modern construction machinery. Alan George discovered how Goodwin Barsby, which manufactures specialised rock crushing and asphalt mixing equipment, is helping to meet the Jamahiriya's needs.**

85 per cent of its output, sees Libya as an extremely important destination for its products. After only fourteen months of involvement in the Jamahiriya, Goodwin Barsby has already won orders valued at £1,660,000, and Libya accounts for about one quarter of the firm's total overseas sales.

At a time of severe recession in the UK, in which the construction industry has been particularly hard-hit, export orders have taken on a new significance. Many of Goodwin Barsby's 200 workers would doubtless have been laid off had it not been for the Libyan orders.

### New product range

Following a major development programme over the past two years, Goodwin Barsby now boasts a full range of the most modern rock crushing and asphalt machinery, which it offers at highly competitive prices. The Ajax and Goliath mobile rock crushers, and the Turbomatic 100 Drum Mixer, for asphalt processing, have proved particularly popular.

The Ajax has an output capacity of 150 tonnes per hour, and the Turbomatic asphalt mixer, which is fully computer controlled, can be operated either on the move or *in situ*, at capacities of up to 200 tonnes per hour. The slightly smaller Roadbatch range of asphalt mixers, which have been sold to the International Airports Authority of India for use in Libya, has also proved a major success.

Goodwin Barsby is also proud of its after-sales service. 'We can guarantee customers an efficient, reliable and prompt service. It is first class, and available worldwide,' said David Strutt, the firm's Export Sales Director.

Mr Strutt is impressed by the competence of Libyan construction personnel. 'They are extremely polite, and know just what machinery they want,' he said. Confirming the experience of other British businessmen who have first-hand knowledge of the country, Mr Strutt added that Goodwin Barsby had not come up against any special problems in its trade with the Jamahiriya. The shortage of quality hotel accommodation in the capital, Tripoli, had been an irritant, he said, but he expressed his confidence that this difficulty would soon fade into the past. A number of major hotels have recently opened, and more are nearing completion. The next to open will be the 365-room Grand Hotel, on Tripoli's seafront.

David Strutt is optimistic that his company will continue to play an important role in Libya's development. 'We hope that 1982 will see an even greater expansion of our involvement in Libya than last year,' he declared. 'As the largest single overseas destination for our products, the Jamahiriya is very close to my heart,' he added.



## Belgian housing for Misrata

THE LAMY company of Verviers, Belgium, has won a \$12.5 million subcontract to supply housing and other associated facilities for construction workers at the Misrata steelworks. The award was made by West Germany's Friedrich Krupp, the leader of a consortium supplying a steel production plant for the Misrata complex. Lamy's order, for completion in October, includes housing for 2,000 people, a hospital, schools, restaurant, shops, bakeries, swimming pools and other sports facilities.

The Misrata steelworks is the largest single project in the Jamahiriya's 1981-85 development plan. The \$3.3 billion first phase, for completion by 1985, provides for an annual capacity of 1.2 million tonnes of steel.

## Major leisure facilities under way for Tripoli

THE SWEDISH firm Skanska Cementgjuteriet has won a \$25 million contract to extend and upgrade the Jamahiriya's national museum, in Tripoli. The existing museum is housed in two separate buildings, separated by a wide road. Part of the museum is in the 2,000-year-old citadel that is one of the Libyan capital's major landmarks. The other section is housed in a nearby building, within the citadel walls and dating from the time of the Italian occupation in the 1930s.

The road separating the two parts of the museum will be closed, and Skanska will erect a three-storey building in the resultant space. The Swedish firm will also upgrade and renovate the existing museum buildings. When the project is complete, in 1983, the national museum will have an exhibition area of about 9,000 square metres.

The scheme was designed by the American firm Henningson Durham & Richardson, and a contract for construction supervision has been awarded to the Edinburgh office of the British consultants Robert Matthew, Johnson-Marshall & Partners.

In another important leisure development for Tripoli, South Korea's Samsung Construction Company has signed an \$85.3 million contract for the first stage of the Nasr Forest Project, an impressive scheme for a major leisure complex, to include a zoo and botanical gardens. The first phase entails the construction of zoological gardens on a 31,000 square metre site. About



*Housing schemes provide modern homes for Libyan citizens.*

forty animal cages will be built, and Samsung will also supply the animals. The first stage is due for completion in 1985.

Later this year, Samsung reportedly hope to win contracts worth \$146.9 million for the second and third stages of the Nasr Forest Project. Stage two is for a botanical garden and amusement park, and stage three is for a sports complex.

While the Jamahiriya is pressing ahead with plans to provide a full range of man-made leisure facilities for its citizens, the country's natural resources for recreation and tourism are not being neglected. In March it was announced that the Finnish consultancy Dovecon is co-operating with the Jamahiriya's Civil Engineering & Office Utilities concern in an environmental study of 23 coastal towns, excluding Tripoli and Benghazi. The main objective of the report, due for completion in 1983, is to evaluate the potential for tourism and recreation.

It was also disclosed that Dovecon is working on a masterplan to develop a stretch of coast 20 kilometres long and 100 kilometres wide, in Tripoli. The eastern end extends into the Suq al Talaat area of the city, where a major complex of hotels and offices is nearing completion.

## British consultant for water scheme?

BRITAIN'S EWBAND & Partners, in association with Rendell Palmer & Tritton, also of the UK, is reportedly well-placed to win a major consultancy award for a sea water desalination plant in Tripoli. The desalination plant will have an eventual daily capacity of 462,000 cubic metres, and will be one of the largest units in the world.

The project is the third stage of a master plan to secure adequate supplies of high quality water for domestic use in the Libyan capital. The first two stages are already under way. The main contractor for both is West Germany's Philip Holzmann, which is working on contracts together worth \$202.7 million. The British Pencol consultancy firm is undertaking design and construction supervision on both contracts.

Work started about one year ago on the first stage, which entails building a pumping station and reservoirs, and developing a well-field with 89 boreholes south of the city. The pumping station will work at a maximum

capacity of about 4,000 litres per second. The Yugoslavian firm Geotehnika is engaged in drilling the new wells, and part of the field should be commissioned in summer. At first, there will be enough pressure for the water to reach Tripoli without the assistance of pumps, and a temporary pipeline has already been laid.

Work on the second stage of Tripoli's water supply master plan started about six months ago, and involves the construction of a smaller pumping station to pump water to the city from the desalination plant.

## Turkish contracts estimated at \$6 billion

THE TURKISH firm Ozdemir Insaat has won a \$140 million contract to build 900 homes and associated infrastructure at the town of Zliten, about 150 kilometres east of Tripoli, it was disclosed in March. The contract, awarded by Zliten municipality, includes the construction of two bridges, three administrative buildings, six football pitches, and the drilling of seven new water wells.

The Ankara-based firm has also won two contracts for work in the village of Tninay, near Bani Walid to the south of Tripoli. A \$6.8 million contract is for 66 homes, and a \$2.9 million award is for a police station and 34 houses.

More than one hundred Turkish construction firms are engaged in the Jamahiriya's 'development programme. At the end of last year the value of Libyan contracts on which Turkish firms had started, or were about to start, was estimated at \$6 billion.

## Survey for 1,235 km water pipeline

THE YUGOSLAV civil engineering and mining concern Rudis has won a \$600,000 contract for initial survey work for a major pipeline in the Jamahiriya, which will carry water from subterranean aquifers in the desert to the coastal zone between Benghazi and Sirte. The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported on 27th February that Rudis will undertake a geodetic survey, involving aerial photography, to prepare a map showing a suitable route for the pipeline.

The 2.4 metre-diameter, 1,235



kilometre pipeline will carry about 2 million cubic metres of water per annum from the Tazerbo and Sarir areas, in south east Libya, for domestic and industrial use, and for the irrigation of some 50,000 hectares of the coastal belt.

Italian and Japanese consortia have expressed interest in building for construction work on the five-year, \$7 billion scheme, but tenders have yet to be invited. Project and construction manager is Brown & Root of the US.

## New pharmacy faculty for Al Fateh University

THE RAD concern of Yugoslavia has won a contract worth more than \$67.5 million to build a pharmacy faculty at Tripoli's Al Fateh University, it was disclosed in March. The contract, won against stiff competition from Italian and Swiss firms, will take 30 months to complete. Consultant and construction supervisor is OTH International of Paris. The new faculty, to be built on a 40,000 square metre site, will mark a major step towards the completion of the entire Al Fateh University scheme, a key project in the Libyan Jamahiriya's \$62.5 billion 1981-85 development plan.

## Industrial estate for Benghazi

BENGHAZI MUNICIPALITY is pressing ahead with plans for a light industrial estate on the coast about five kilometres north of the city centre, it was reported in March. Several plots have been allocated for factories, but site surveys will have to be conducted before the scheme can be confirmed.

Industry takes pride of place in the Jamahiriya's 1981-85 development plan. 4.3 billion Libyan dinars have been allocated for industrial projects, accounting for 23 per cent of total planned investments. Heavy industry has been accorded LD 2.73 billion, and light industry LD 1.2 billion.

## French exports to Libya up 75 per cent

AFTER A period of strained relations which adversely affected trade ties, French-Libyan trade has begun to expand sharply.



Modern facilities for chemistry students in Libya; see item on Al Fateh University.

Recently published figures show that in 1981 French exports to the Libyan Jamahiriya increased by 75 per cent to \$826.7 million. Peugeot cars were the main export, followed by a wide range of consumer goods. Imports from Libya — mainly oil — totalled \$446.4 million in 1981, a slight fall on the 1980 figure.

Relations between the two countries reached a low point in early 1980, after the January uprising in the south Tunisian mining town of Gafsa. Paris joined the chorus of unsubstantiated allegations by western countries of Libyan involvement in the rebellion. In February 1980 the French embassy in Tripoli and consulate in Benghazi were damaged by demonstrators protesting against the French accusations, and against wider French interference on the African continent. The victory of François Mitterand's Socialists in the May 1981 general elections, however, paved the way for a new era in French-Libyan relations.

## \$48 million investment in oil exploration

PETROLEO BRASILEIRO (Petrobras) expects to invest a total of \$48 million during its five year contract, awarded in 1980, to explore in a 29,600 square kilometre area in the Murzuk basin in the south west of the Jamahiriya, the London weekly *Middle East Digest* disclosed on 12th March.

The journal added that Libya supplies about 38,000 barrels of oil per day to Brazil, out of total daily imports of 850,000 barrels per day. The latest bulletin of the Brazilian Central Bank shows that Brazil's imports from the Jamahiriya in the first nine months of 1981 totalled \$282.7 million, a sharp rise on the 1980 total of \$135.2 million. In the first nine

months of 1981, Brazilian exports to Libya were only \$9.7 million, compared with the 1980 total of \$35.2 million.

## Chemicals contract 'highly satisfactory'

THE JAMAHIRIYA'S General Company for Chemicals Industries is to extend its contract with the West German firm KHD Engineering for operation, maintenance and training services at the Abu Kammash chemicals complex. The Cologne-based firm says that its existing three-year contract has been 'highly satisfactory'.

Located on the coast near the Tunisian frontier, the Abu Kammash complex was built by a West German consortium — including KHD — and opened in 1980. It is one of the Jamahiriya's key industrial plants, with an annual capacity of 60,000 tonnes of polyvinyl chloride, 50,000 tonnes of caustic soda and 40,000 tonnes of table salt.

A \$28 million contract for an industrial and medical gas plant near Tripoli is expected to be signed shortly by a French-Italian joint venture of L'Air Liquide and Techint. The client is the Jamahiriya's Light Industry Secretariat. The plant, whose main product will be oxygen, will take about two years to complete.

## Training for steelworkers

BRITAIN'S INGERSOLL Engineering Projects, Austria's Voest-Alpine, and the Italian firm Techint have been short-listed by the Jamahiriya's Heavy Industry Secretariat for a \$150 million contract to build two training schools for the Misrata steel complex. The schools, one in Tripoli, the other in Misrata, will each cater for 1,000 trainees.

The Misrata steelworks is the

largest single project in the Jamahiriya's \$62.5 billion 1981-85 development plan. The \$3.3 billion first stage, scheduled for completion during the plan period, will have an annual capacity of 1.2 million tonnes per annum. The second stage, for completion by 1991, will increase capacity to 5 million tonnes per annum, and the final stage entails expansion to an annual capacity of 7 million tonnes per annum by the year 2000. The training schools contract will be one of the last to be awarded for the first stage of the scheme.

In February, Ingersoll won a \$42 million contract to train steelworkers in Britain, and both the other short-listed firms have also won contracts for the Misrata steelworks. Last year, Voest-Alpine won contracts valued at nearly \$1 billion for the supply of steelmaking equipment, while Techint is a member of an Italian consortium that last year won three orders together worth \$300 million for non-production facilities at the plant.

## Intensive care unit opens at Zuwara

THE JAMAHIRIYA'S determination to provide a full range of health care facilities for its citizens has been underlined by the opening on 11th April of a new intensive care unit at the central hospital in the coastal town of Zuwara, west of Tripoli. Fitted with the most modern equipment, the unit is manned by six doctors and sixteen nurses.

Libya's 1981-85 development plan provides for an increase in the number of hospital beds in the country from 14,472 in 1980 to 23,765 by 1985. The ratio of beds to population will rise from 4.5:1,000 to 6:1,000 in the same period. The 1981-85 plan allocates LD 600 million for the development of health services.



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**Copies of The Green Book can be obtained from The Information Department, The Libyan People's Bureau of the Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 5 St James's Square, London SW1.**